(b) and (c). The report of the National Development Council (NDC) Committee on Power under Shri Sharad Pawar has been submitted and it is yet to be discussed in the NDC.

(d) and (e). The existing policy allows private firms to distribute electricity upon obtaining a license from the concerned State Government. One of the elements in the comprehensive policy on renewable energy being worked out, is a cess to fund non-conventional energy projects. The full implication of levying such a cess would be studied before a decision is taken on the subject.

Mejia Thermal Power Project in W.B.

*113. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether first unit of Mejia Thermal Power Project in West Bengal has been functioning;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which 2nd and 3rd units of this project are likely to be made functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b). First Unit of 210 MW of Mejia Thermal Power Project being executed by Damodar Valley Corporation was synchronised since March, 1996.

(c) The Second and Third unit of 210 MW each are scheduled to be commissioned by September, 1996 and March, 1997 respectively.

Gas Grid in Gujarat

*114 SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan has requested the Union Government for portion of associated gas from the proposed gas grid in Gujarat to Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government to provide associated gas from the proposed gas grid of Gujarat to Rajasthan so that industries in Sirodhi and Jalore could be developed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b). The Government of Rajasthan have asked for an allocation of 20 MMSCMD from the HBJ pipeline for power generation, fertiliser and methanol projects, LPG Extraction, petrochemical projects and ceramic industries.

(c) The gas projected to be available along the HBJ pipeline is fully allocated and it is not feasible to consider additional allocation of gas at present.

Jawahar Rozgar Yojana

*115. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether gross irregularities in the implementation of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana have been reported in various States particularly in Punjab;

(b) if so, the names of the other States where such irregularities in the implementation of employment schemes in rural areas have come to the notice of the Government;

(c) whether the Government gathered any factual information regarding financial irregularities committed under the employment schemes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. YERRAN NAIDU) (a) No, Sir. However, some complaints regarding irregularities in the implementation of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) have been received from States/UTs including Punjab in this Ministry.

(b) Complaints have been received from the following States during 1995-96 and 1996-97 :

(i) Assam
(ii) Bihar
(iii) Gujarat
(iv) Madhya Pradesh
(v) Maharashtra
(vi) Orissa
(vii) Punjab
(viii) Rajasthan
(ix) Tamil Nadu
(x) Uttar Pradesh

(c) The complaints are immediately forwarded to the State Government for taking appropriate remedial action.

(d) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Power Generation

*116. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA .
DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) the generation capacity of power in hydel, thermal and nuclear areas in the country at the end of March, 1996;

(b) whether electricity is being generated as per its installed capacity;